

Bloomfield Citizen.

WEEKLY JOURNAL

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THE CITIZEN solicits contributions from the general public on any subject—political, religious, educational, or social—as long as they do not contain any personal attacks.

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith.

Advertisements for insertion in the current week must be in hand not later than Friday noon.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1906.

Must Pay for Grade Crossing.

The principle of remuneration to the municipality for the privilege of crossing streets at grade by a railroad company has been adopted by the city of East Orange, and officials of other municipalities will be interested in watching the further progress of the negotiations between the East Orange officials and the Erie Railroad Company. The Erie Railroad Company has purchased property in East Orange and Orange, for the establishment of a large freight yard. To have the necessary trackage facilities for the yard, it is necessary to cross some streets at grade. The streets are in East Orange, and the railroad company petitioned the Council of that city for right-of-way for grade crossings. The petition was made the subject of negotiation with the result that the railroad committee of the Council decided to recommend to the Council the granting of the requested permission subject to certain conditions. The report of the railroad committee, through its Chairman, Joseph Lee, was as follows:

"Gates at Kearny street, all crossings in the city to be paved with Belgian blocks between tracks and to edge of right of way; all gates operated from 6 A. M. till last passenger train has passed; lower Prospect and North Park streets to grade of streets, said grade to be furnished by the City Engineer; railroad company to pay for basins and drains to carry water under tracks on Kearny street to stream where it crosses Kearny street to and for grading Kearny street from tracks each way fifty feet more or less, plans of which will be accompanied with contract; Railroad company to pay for moving manholes of sewer, plans accompanying. Sufficient deposit to be made with city to cover expenses of sections Nos. 5 and 6, and all back assessments owed at present to the city to be paid upon signing the contract. No blocking the streets for more than five minutes. Railroad company to pay \$250 annually in advance for use of Kearny street with tracks called for in plans."

Every section of the present contemplated contract was agreed to by the members of the committee, who made a careful study of the whole situation. It was stated that the company needed the added tracks, yet the city should not give away a valuable grant for no remuneration and secure the needed improvements.

Good Sidewalks.

Previous to the adoption here of the town act of 1895 the work of laying flagstone sidewalks in this town was under a provision by which the town paid half of the cost of the stone walk. With the change in the form of government the custom of having the town pay half of the expense was abolished, and since that time sidewalk work has lagged here, and the town is now behind other towns in this county in the matter of good walks. All the main streets in the town should have flag walks on both sides the entire length of the street.

The town's deficiency in the matter of good walks is a cause of comment with the numerous strangers now coming here. Especially is this the case with streets leading to the schools and churches. It is time that the sidewalk question was taken in hand by the Town Council and pushed vigorously.

A Good Move.

The County Board of Tax Equalization are preparing a bill for presentation to the Legislature which, if passed, will require the sellers of real estate to insert the full sum in dollars and cents, instead of "the sum of one dollar," which is permitted by the statute now on the books. This bill, if passed, would be of much service to the county tax board, especially in determining "full value."

Montclair on Deck.

Mayor-elect Crawford of Montclair asked the Essex County Park Commission Monday to take over the property recently purchased in Montclair for park purposes and turn it into a play ground. The board will consider the matter later. It already has charge of a park in Upper Montclair, and should also be taken up. It will have the new park conducted on similar lines.

Crockett Pulisier.

A large wedding took place at the residence of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick King Pulisier, at Ridgewood avenue, Glen Ridge, Thursday night, when their daughter Miss Sue Alice Pulisier, became the wife of Thomas Boyd Crockett of New York. Rev. Ernest M. Stiles, rector of St. Thomas's Episcopal Church, New York, performed the ceremony in the presence of many relatives and friends. The groom was formerly first lieutenant in the Twenty-fourth Infantry, U. S. A., but resigned to go into business. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a gown of white liberty satin trimmed with duchesse and pointed lace. Her ornaments were a diamond necklace and a ruby and diamond pendant. Her bouquet was of the valley and orchids. Miss Clara Surbrug of Montclair was bridesmaid. She was dressed in pale green chiffon and carried a cluster of white roses. Four children, Frits Pulisier, brother of the bride; John Moore of Glen Ridge, Kathleen Crawford and Margaret Quinby of Montclair, held streamers of white satin ribbon and formed an aisle for the bride party. While the ceremony was being performed the bride party knelt at a white altar arranged for the occasion. The best man was David E. Crockett of New York, brother of the groom, and the ushers were Stuyvesant Dudley and Bayard Livingston, both of Manhattan.

Nugent-Stuart.

Miss Anna Stuart, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Stuart of Brookside place, was married on Thursday night of last week to Frank Nugent of Newark, by Rev. Henry H. Hadley, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Newark, the ceremony being performed at the bride's home. The bride was becomingly attired in a costume of cream silk, and carried a bouquet of lilies of the valley. Miss Sadie Donegan, the bridesmaid, wore a gown of lavender silk, and carried white roses. The ushers were J. Perkins of Huddersfield, England, and J. Harrison of Bradford, England. At the conclusion of the ceremony a supper was served.

James-Madison.

At the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Madison, 72 Willow street, Wednesday night of last week, their daughter, Miss Louise J. Madison, and Edwin James of Rockaway, N. J., were married in the presence of a large number of guests by Rev. Dr. Jesse L. Gilbert, pastor of the Park M. E. Church. The bride wore white organdy and carried a bouquet of chrysanthemums. Miss Anna Hoffman was bridesmaid, and Thomas James, a brother of the bridegroom, was best man. The ushers were William and Daniel Madison, brothers of the bride, and Raymond James of Rockaway. The couple went to Canada on a wedding trip.

Quackenbush-Roberts.

Miss Minnie Roberts, daughter of William Roberts, and Ernest Quackenbush of Albany, N. Y., were married at the home of the bride's parents, 67 Baldwin place, Wednesday night of last week, by Rev. S. Trevena Jackson, pastor of the Watessing M. E. Church. Miss Alice Drake was bridesmaid and David Roberts best man. Mr. and Mrs. Quackenbush will reside in Albany.

Ehrl-Vonach.

Miss Margaret Vonach, daughter of Mrs. Mary Vonach of 115 Chadwick avenue, Newark, was married to Jacob Frederick Ehrl of this town on Wednesday night of last week at the home of the bride, by Rev. Dr. Lyle. Miss Rose Vonach, sister of the bride, was bridesmaid, and Robert Dones acted as best man. Following the ceremony there was a reception and a supper was served.

Birthday Party.

Frederick Bennett Harvey, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel W. Harvey of Jerome place, was Wednesday night tendered a surprise reception at the home of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Harvey in Linden avenue, by about sixty of his friends. The affair was in honor of his eighteenth birthday, and the evening was spent in games, dancing and other amusements. The young man, who is popular in town, received many handsome gifts.

Glen Ridge Items.

A series of card parties is being arranged to take place at the club soon after the holidays.

A dance will be held in the club hall Thursday, December 13. Tuesday night the members and their wives were entertained by Richard Barry, the war correspondent, who lectured on "Lords of Sluffe."

The firemen were called out Tuesday night for a blaze at the home of John Bieghel. The damage was slight.

Lawrence Field of Ridgewood avenue is in Jacksonville, Fla.

Lycium Officers.

At a meeting of the Bloomfield Catholic Lycium Monday night the following officers were elected: President, John A. Moran; vice-president, W. H. Nolan; recording secretary, Wm. Flinn; financial secretary, Grover T. Caffrey; treasurer, the Rev. John J. Preston; Board of Directors—Henry J. Sommerkamp, Edward J. Moran, Peter Glendon, Alexander Smith and W. J. Bigley. During the meeting the Rev. Father Preston was welcomed home by the members. Father Preston described the points of interest visited by him in Cuba and Mexico during his vacation.

Factual Notes.

As anticipated last week, these interested in the People's Lobby met at Adelphi Hotel, Newark, Friday night of last week and formed an organization for the purpose of watching legislation in order to prevent the enactment of laws detrimental to the people. The meeting was called at the instance of Rev. Adolph Roeder, president of the Civic Federation of Orange. Edwin J. Adams was made temporary chairman, and Alden Freeman of East Orange took a prominent part in the proceedings. A full expression of feeling was indulged in, and all agreed that the organization ought to take an active part in endeavoring to kill objectionable legislation.

In order to prevent the Democrats from making any changes in the Essex County Board of Freeholders the Republican Common Council of Newark has passed an ordinance to create a new ward in that city. The Republicans contend that by making the new ward there will be a vacancy in the Board of Freeholders, and as the Common Council has the right to fill vacancies, this will make a tie in the Freeholders' board and prevent removals from office. As the ordinance above referred to was rushed through to its third reading in one night, the Democrats declare that it is illegal, and will contest the matter in the courts. The Newark Common Council and the Board of Education are both tied politically, but by the creation of the new ward two members will be appointed for each body, thus giving the Republicans a majority in both bodies. The Newark papers denounce the whole affair as an outrage, and declare that it was done to thwart the will of the people at the polls. The Council held a special meeting on Monday morning and appointed Reuben Bedell as a freeholder from the new ward. As soon as his certificate was granted the Democrats applied to Chief Justice Gurnee for a writ to review the proceedings in the case. He ordered the writ and made it returnable on Wednesday of next week, but announced that the writ would not act as a stay. In consequence, the new Board of Freeholders will not organize until the case has been heard in the courts.

IN THE PERSIAN DESERT.

Curious Way in Which Water Is Procured For Yezd.

Almost in the center of Persia lies Yezd, a city of perhaps 40,000 people, on the great caravan route. It is a city of the desert, says the author of "Five Years in a Persian Town," but how complete that desert is and how large it is hard to realize.

In going from the Caspian sea to Yezd one sees a strip of green country thirty miles wide along the sea and another twenty miles in diameter round Teheran. Aside from that there is nothing but waste.

The desert in Persia, however, is of many kinds. There are places where the ground is absolutely bare except for the thick crusts of salt that lie like snowdrifts, streaking the plain in every direction. There are also places equally salt where the proximity of a certain amount of useless water produces a larger quantity of plant life than in the ordinary desert. For the rest there is a vast waste of sandy patches and of gravelly soil, fertile enough when water can be brought to it, sometimes flocked with dry, brownish shrubs, sometimes quite bare.

Two desert plants never touch one another. In the most favorable places two very tiny shrubs may be found within two yards of each other, but with a single exception one does not see on the central Persian caravan route a place away from the hills with enough natural growth to modify the color of the distance.

Even in the cases of seed comes up that is not purposely sown; no plant seems to have any association with the rest. One fixes the eye on each of them individually as upon a single unit, not as on a part of a field or a garden.

The water for these oases is brought by the most difficult means imaginable. It is found in abundance at the foot of the mountains, perhaps 300 feet underground. When a well has been sunk and plenty of water found a hunt is made for the nearest place in the desert which is lower than water level in the well. Such a spot is Yezd, thirty miles from the sources which water it. In a line with the place where wells are sunk thirty or forty yards apart, each shallower than the one before, and then from the selected site a tunnel is run in to the first pit, from that to the second, and so on back to the wells, even though they be forty miles away. Through this underground channel flows the life giving water.

Sometimes it happens that a sudden hard rain falls in this desert country. It brings many disasters, for the sun baked mud roofs of the dwellings are caved in, their walls are washed away, and other damage is done them. But, worst of all, too much water washes out and caves in these "Qanat" channels, and until they are again dug out no water comes to town.

It has happened at Yezd that a single rainy day, the water from which had dried away or sunk into the ground before the next sunrise, has, by filling the channels, caused a water famine in the city for three months.

"Hannah" said the mistress to her new girl, "you can take that brown serge dress of mine and put it in soak."

"Yes'm," said Hannah. "Who's your favorite pawnbroker?"—London Answer.

Slipped a Word.

From a recent examination paper on religious instruction at a boys' school: "Holy matrimony is a divine institution for the procreation of mankind."

Concrete Houses—Edison's Prophecy.

In a recent newspaper interview Theodore Edison, the inventor, is quoted as saying that a series of movable, interchangeable molds for cement houses of varying designs, and all the paraphernalia for using it, would be easily within the compass of a corporation or firm with a capital of \$100,000. From these molds, and with semi-fluid concrete made with cement and poured into the forms, houses could be built, if the form may still be used, in a few hours, ready to have all the windows, heating pipes and water and illuminating fixtures put in place. A day would be ample time, economically utilized. And as to the cost, in this estimation \$350 would be sufficient to build a good, artistic, comfortable little house of seven rooms. Another feature which he incidentally mentions is that such a house simply could not burn, would not require repairs, as walls, floors, stairs, roof, cellar, and in short, everything but the doors and windows, would be of cement. In point of beauty such a structure would be as readily of artistic design as any other. In durability it would literally defy the gnawing tooth of time.

"Just say for me that I have tried it and know it will work, and that I would do it myself as a business if I had time, which I haven't. I've been working all day and all night, a few odd hours excepted, for forty years, and I can't begin to get through with my own work. But such houses as I have outlined would unquestionably be the very thing for the man earning small pay. The rich might at first look askance at such houses, but the time will come when they will live in them, too."

"I will see that this innovation a commonplace fact, even though I am in my sixtieth year, for I ought, accidents barred, to live twenty years more, at least, and inside of ten years you will be living in a cement house."—The Village.

Eternal Vigilance.

The waving of "Old Glory" in front of every public school in the land is a patriotic aim that the Junior Order of American Mechanics makes a specialty of. Any dereliction from duty on the part of any school teacher in the matter of flying the flag is promptly reported by some vigilant member of the order.

The local Board of Education has been caught napping in the matter of flying the flag at all the schools, and on Monday night a communication from James T. Boyd, Council Junior Order United American Mechanics directed the attention of the board to the fact that the flag was not flying at the school house near the city line and asked that the matter be given attention. The only reason given why the flag does not fly to the breeze from this particular pole was that the board did not rent the entire building and had no claim on the pole. The board has had a pole placed over the entrance to that part of the building used as a school and from it "Old Glory" now flies.

Mountainside Hospital.

The proposed fair to be given in December under the auspices of the Board of Governors of the Mountainside Hospital and the ladies of the Mountainside Hospital Auxiliary, has been deferred until next spring, when an open air fête and fair combined will be given at which several unique features will be presented. Many worthy objects requiring the support and interest of the community, have appealed through wires to the public spirit of this autumn, therefore the ladies interested in the hospital felt hope that after a respite to the demands upon their interest and generosity, the public will support their undertaking with renewed enthusiasm. Due notice of time and place will be given through the press.

Library Notes.

"The Dragon Painter," by Mrs. Fenellosa, who lived many years in the Orient, pictures real Japanese men and women, and not Americans dressed in Japanese clothes acting on an American stage. Mrs. Fenellosa is a real artist, and no other writer has so thoroughly captured that indefinable grace which characterizes everything Japanese. The native words and phrases, veneration of parents, little customs of every-day life, all are true, and this book, like "The Breath of the Gods," is interesting to all readers, but proves a delight to any who have themselves visited the Land of the Rising Sun.

It is interesting to note the number of recent stories the scenes of which are laid in other lands than our own. Of course we all expect Marion Crawford to write of Rome and its society. "The Call of the Blood" is a story of love and revenge in Sicily, that jewel of the Mediterranean; "Sophia of Kravonia" carries an American heroine through humorous and thrilling adventures in a nameless kingdom of Europe; while "Bidofo," highly praised by the reviewers, takes us back to the fires and wars of Italy in the 15th century.

All who read "Concerning Isabel Carnaby" will be interested in "The Subjection of Isabel Carnaby." Books as demanded are Jack London's "Frenzied Tale," "The White Fairy," Marion Harland's irresistibly funny story of a brand-new housekeeper, "The Distractions of Martha," "Richard the Brave," "The Prisoners," and "The Face of Clay."

This last named book, called by its author an interpretation, is a thoughtful tale of Brittany in which threads of love, ambition and remorse are cleverly interwoven with bits of weird superstition.

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